ISO approved Skyworks Solutions ships to BenQ

Skyworks Solutions Inc, a wireless semiconductor company focused on radio frequency and complete cellular system solutions for mobile communications applications, today announced it has launched volume shipments to BenQ of its next generation GPRS RF Subsystem, including the iPAC power amplifier module (PAM) and DCR transceiver. Set to launch early next year, the new handsets span low-cost high-volume models to high-end feature-rich designs and target Asia, Europe and the Americas.

"Skyworks' GPRS RF Subsystem is enabling us to deliver exciting features and outstanding battery life in the smallest possible handset form factors," said Dr. Irwin Chen, VP and GM with BenQ. "Offering one of the most highly-integrated RF solutions and unparalleled design support, Skyworks has once again delivered upon their promise of being a complete supplier. We have exceeded our customer's expectations and we look forward to future collaborations with Skyworks."

Skyworks' field-proven 8 x 8mm CX74063 device is an advanced direct conversion transceiver that cuts the number of external components required to build a mobile handset by more than one-third, significantly reducing the size, cost and power requirements of next-generation multi-band (GSM850, EGSM900, DCS1800 and PCS1900) GSM/GPRS handsets, while the receiver supports downlink EDGE applications. When the SKY74063 transceiver is combined with Skyworks' 8 x 10mm CX77315 iPAC PAM, customers such as BenQ can achieve a fully integrated RF section in an extremely compact footprint. The complete GPRS RF Subsystem also offers the flexibility to be combined with virtually any baseband solution currently available on the market.

Earlier in November, Skyworks received the ISO 9001:2000 certification across all of the company's major design, development and manufacturing sites from Det Norske Veritas.

Lucent & Top Global join forces for 3G mobile nets and Wi-Fi tech

A mobile hot spot gateway, called 3G MobileBridge, allows operators to rapidly use Wi-Fi hot spots in any location leveraging 3G mobile networks to carry data traffic.

Top Global and Lucent Technologies are to provide wireless service providers in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and Africa regions with an integration 3G mobile network and Wi-Fi.

This will allow operators to leverage wide-area 3G CDMA 2000 and UMTS/W-CDMA mobile networks to carry data traffic generated by Wi-Fi hot spots. Top Global's 3G MobileBridge serves as a gateway that links Wi-Fi and 3G networks, enabling business users and consumers to use their Wi-Fi-enabled devices in trains, buses and other vehicles.

Top Global and Lucent will collaborate to ensure compatibility of Top Global's 3G MobileBridge with Lucent's 3G CDMA2000 & UMTS/W-CDMA mobile networking equipment.

The two companies are also to work together on joint-marketing and sales activities.

GPRS RF front-end in Taiwan

According to Digitimes, Taiwan-based RayComm Microwave Technologies has achieved a milestone in Taiwan RF development and begun sampling of a tri-band GPRS RF front-end module, with mass production scheduled for the first quarter of next year.

WenChe Kuo, director of RayComm's handheld device division, is reported as saying that the module is made using a low-temperature co-fire ceramic process, integrates an antenna switch, three SAW filters, a power amplifier (PA), a low noise amplifier (LNA), several other passive components and an RF transceiver supplied from Texas Instruments (TI).

RF front-end modules in Taiwan have been difficult to develop with local handset producers relying on foreign design firms, such as Skyworks Solutions, or Murata Manufacturing for this component.

Chi Mei Communication Systems (CMCS) is one of a few Taiwanese companies that have begun commercial shipments of GPRS RF modules. CMCS' module bundles a front-end RF module and baseband chip. Mag.Layers Scientific-Technics, another Taiwan RF module maker, launched its GPRS RF front-end module in June.

Since RayComm only has a small production line, the company is likely to outsource production to Japanese module makers such as Kyocera. It is looking to ship about 400,000 modules next year. RayComm, banks on increased demand for wireless networking connectivity in handhelds and also plans to develop GPRS/WLAN modules, launching the products in the last half of next year.